



HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Headteacher Mr P.O'Kane

Newsletter 325 Friday 2nd December 2016

The children and staff have been finalising their Christmas productions this week and, based on today's dress rehearsal, you are all in for a treat! We look forward to seeing grandparents and parishioners on Monday afternoon and parents and carers on Tuesday and Wednesday afternoon. We should be grateful if there are no very young children or 'babes in arms' at the performances as they can often cause distraction for our performers. Thank you for your understanding in this matter. We expect to see all our KS2 children in Holy Family Church on Thursday evening for the final performance of their Christmas concerts.

We marked the start of Advent during Monday's assembly by lighting the first purple candle on the Advent wreath, created by Ms Dawson and Miss Tranah after school on Friday evening. This season of Advent is a time for us all to prepare spiritually for the coming of Christ at Christmas.



The netball team were in action this week against a very well-drilled and organised Thundersley School team (no accident—Thundersley's coach is a Holy Family past-pupil). It was a very close game and our team suffered their first defeat of the season with a final score of 6:8. Thank you to all the parents who supported the squad and to Mrs Bewers for training the team. Mrs Whitbourn sent me this picture of the team in action.



As there is no Saturday Christmas Bazaar this year, the traditional Friday morning cake sale and raffle was replaced by a Wednesday morning sale and raffle. Thank you so much for the many donations of cakes, treats and buns. Thanks too, for giving your children money to spend on cakes and raffle tickets. Our Year 6 children under the guidance of Miss Fordham ran the cake sale and raffle in their classroom. An amazing £401.73 was raised which will be added to the non-uniform donations and proceeds of the Victorian Fayre.



On Thursday morning, as is tradition, our KS2 children walked to Holy Family Church to attend morning Mass and then practise for the Christmas production in church next Thursday evening; we were very proud of the children's behaviour as they represented the school walking through Benfleet and in Holy Family Church. Next Thursday morning, the children will walk to Holy Family Church and join in the Mass for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception.

We have had a fantastic day in school today with the dress rehearsal in the morning and the Christmas Fayre this afternoon. The non-uniform day was a great success with a good mix of Victorian and modern day/Christmas themed children and adults sprinkled around the school. £171.36 was donated by those children who opted not to wear their uniforms.



Danbury 2017 There will be a Danbury information meeting for Year 6 parents on Monday 12th December 2016 at 3.30pm in the Year 6 classroom.

Christmas Dinner Day If your child would like a Christmas dinner at school on Wednesday 21st December, please ensure that it is paid for by Monday 19th December along with all monies due that week. Thank you.

School Health Drop-in service If you have concerns about your child's health then you can use the Drop-in service where no appointments are necessary. The limit is 15 minutes per child but for more in-depth problems please contact the clinic directly to speak to a member of the school nurse team. The locations are: Central Canvey Primary Care Centre, Long Road, Canvey Island, SS8 OJA. Phone 01268 686041 2-4pm 15th December and Oak Tree Children's Centre, Grovewood Primary School, Grove Road, Rayleigh SS6 8UA. Phone 01268 775910 2-4pm 5th December.

Attendance Nursery 98.2% RF 94.3% 1F 91% 2F94.7% 3W 99.7% 4D 97.3% 5LB 97.7% 6F 91.6% Well done to Year 3 for best attendance last week.

Saint of the week St Maria Giuseppe Rossello, feast day (7th December) was the Foundress of the Daughters of Our Lady of Mercy. She was born at in Liguria, Italy, in 1811, and was baptised Benedetta. At the age of sixteen she became a Franciscan tertiary, and in 1837, she and three companions founded a community in Savona. The congregation was devoted to charitable works, hospitals, and educating poor young women. In 1840, Maria Giuseppe, also called Josepha, was made superior. By the time she died on December 7, 1888, she had made sixty-eight foundations. She was canonised in 1949.



Mr P. O'Kane
Headteacher



Diary Dates

Monday 5th December

Christmas Production Afternoon (Elderly of the Parish & Grandparents) 1.30pm

Monday 5th December

Finance & Premises Governors' Meeting
6.00pm

Tuesday 6 th December	Christmas Production Afternoon (Parents & Carers—Limited Tickets) 1.30pm
Wednesday 7 th December	Christmas Production Afternoon (Parents & Carers—Limited Tickets) 1.30pm
Thursday 8 th December	KS2 Children Walk to Holy Family Church for Mass & Rehearse Christmas Presentation
Thursday 8 th December	KS2 Children Christmas Performance in Holy Family Church 7pm (All KS2 Children to Attend)
Monday 12 th December	Danbury Meeting 3.30pm Year 6 Classroom
Wednesday 21 st December	Advent Reconciliation Service
Wednesday 21 st December	School Christmas Dinner
Wednesday 21 st December	Christmas Hat Assembly
Thursday 22 nd December 2016—Wednesday 4 th January 2017	Christmas Holidays
Thursday 5 th January 2017	First Day of Spring Term
Friday 6 th January 2017	Mass for the Epiphany (tbc)
Wednesday 18 th January 2017	Whole School Theatre Visit (Beauty & The Beast—Wednesday Players, Palace Theatre)
Monday 6 th February 2017	Year 6 Danbury Residential Trip
Friday 10 th February 2017	Year 6 Return from Danbury
Monday 13 th February—Friday 17 th February 2017	Half-Term Holiday
Wednesday 1 st March	Ash Wednesday—Lent Begins
Tuesday 21 st March 2017	Hot Cross Run (Catholic Schools' Cross Country Event) (tbc)
Monday 3 rd April—Friday 14 th April 2017	Easter Holidays
Sunday 9 th April 2017	Palm (Passion) Sunday—Start of Holy Week
Sunday 16 th April 2017	Easter Sunday
Monday 17 th April 2017	Public Holiday—School Closed
Tuesday 18 th April 2017	First Day of Summer Term